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Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

ABRAHAM LINCOLN EXHIBIT

Composed by Alice Cook

Bonneville Museum

Idaho Falls, Idaho

February 1990

Idaho's Centennial Year



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln, also known as Honest Abe, The Railsplitter, or the Great Emancipator, was born February 12, 1809 in Hodgenville, Kentucky and died April 15, 1865 in Washington, D.C.

Lincoln was the 16th president of the United States (1861-1865) who preserved the Union during the American Civil War and brought about the emancipation of the slaves.

Of humble origin, Lincoln was a self-educated lawyer in frontier Illinois in the 1830s and 1840s. In 1842 he married Mary Todd who bore him four children, Robert Todd, Edward Baker, William Wallace, and Thomas (Tad).

Before he became prominent in national politics, Lincoln was one of the most distinguished and successful lawyers in Illinois. He was noted not only for his shrewdness and practical common sense, but also for his invariable fairness and utter honesty.

After serving a term in Congress (1847-1849), Lincoln became a Republican in 1856. Two years later he engaged in a series of debates with Stephen A. Douglas in an attempt to gain Douglas' seat in the U.S. Senate. Despite his defeat at the polls, the debates made him a nationally known figure, and he was elected to the presidency in 1860.

His period as president was wholly taken up with the war against the secessionist southern states. As a war measure, Lincoln proclaimed the slaves in the rebellious states free in 1863.

Abraham Lincoln was assassinated by John Wilkes Booth as he sat in Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C. just days after the Union victory in 1865, and he came to be regarded as a hero and martyr by later generations of Americans.

EXCERPTS FROM
THE
LINCOLN FAMILY STORY

The story is told that as the Lincolns were preparing to move into the White House in 1861, Mary Todd Lincoln gathered a pile of old photographs in her apron and was about to throw them out when Abe stopped her. After he was assassinated in 1865, his often unbalanced widow, who began calling herself Mrs. President Lincoln, preserved the pictures for Robert Todd, the only one of their four sons to reach maturity. He passed them along to his two surviving children who, in turn, handed the growing collection down to their own offspring. Sadly, the family died out, only three generations after Abraham and Mary Todd Lincoln. Eventually the pictures, some 400 in all, ended up in the Vermont family mansion of the President's great-granddaughter, Mary Beckwith. They were discovered in several dusty old trunks in the attic and, after her brother's death in 1875, were sold to the Lincoln Library and Museum in Fort Wayne.

Robert Todd

At the age of 16, Robert was studying to enter Harvard. On a rare visit home, he breakfasted with his father the day Lincoln was shot, April 14, 1865. Appointed Secretary of War by President James Garfield in 1881, he claimed to have "a repugnance to what is called 'public life' that is almost morbid". He died at 82.

Edward Baker

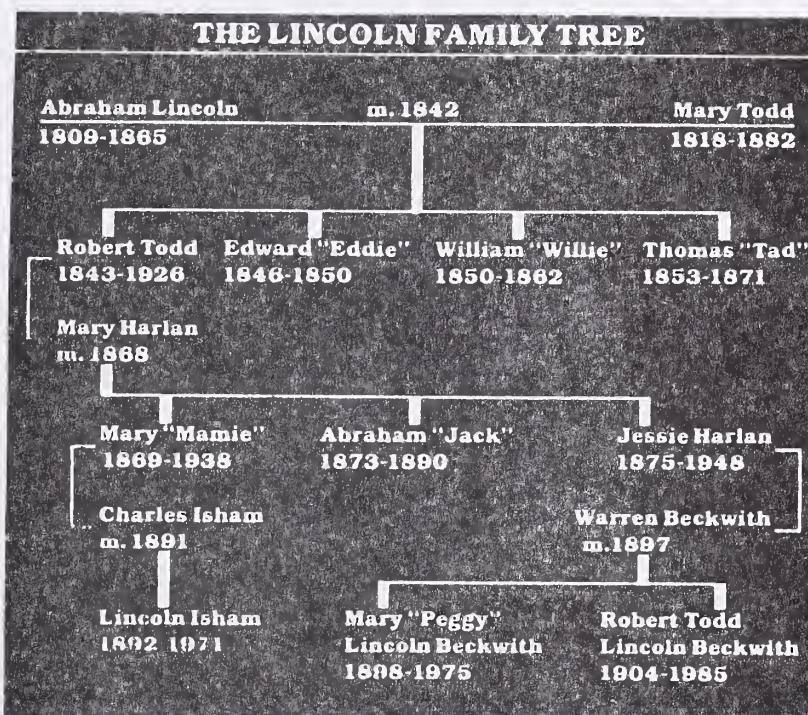
Edward died in 1850 at the age of 3.

William Wallace

At the age of 11, Willie came down with what his doctors called bilious fever and died a few days later, on a Thursday. Afterward his grief-stricken father proposed that each Thursday be declared a day of national mourning for sons killed in the Civil War.

Thomas

Tad, who died at 18, probably of tuberculosis, was recalled by White House secretary John Hay as having had "a very bad opinion of books, and no opinion of discipline".



Source: The Louis A. Warren Lincoln Library and Museum, Fort Wayne, Indiana

LINCOLN'S DESK AND CHAIR

This desk and chair belonged to Abraham Lincoln.

The desk was at one time in the old state capital building in Springfield, Illinois. It also sat in a corner of the Lincoln & Herndon Law Office and was later moved to Lincoln's home.

This furniture was given to a close friend, John Kuecher, by Abraham Lincoln just before he left Springfield to be sworn in as the 16th President of the United States in 1860. Lincoln helped him cart them to his home in a wheelbarrow.

The desk and chair have been exhibited in Springfield through the years on Abraham Lincoln's birthday, February 12th.

IDAHO BORN GUTZON BORGUM

SCULPTOR OF ABRAHAM LINCOLN

John Gutzon de la Mothe Borglum was born March 25, 1871, near the frontier town of St. Charles, near Bear Lake in Idaho Territory.

In 1890 Borglum went to New York and then to Paris where he became a close friend of Auguste Rodin, the sculptor. He lived for a time in Spain, San Francisco and London, and then in 1901 he settled in New York.

Borglum's wife was an Egyptologist interested in the massive works of ancient Egypt, and he too turned his interest to large scale sculpture such as the use of a 6-ton block of marble to sculpt the head of Abraham Lincoln for the Capitol rotunda in Washington, D.C.

This impressed some southerners, and they commissioned Borglum to make a memorial to the Confederate Army on the face of Stone Mountain near Atlanta, Georgia. This was his first sculpture on a heroic scale and was started in 1916. Controversy stalled the work and Borglum abandoned the project. It was completed by others in the 1960's.

Borglum's engineering prowess invented new methods for sculpture, using dynamite and pneumatic hammers to carve huge quantities of stone quickly. The techniques developed at Stone Mountain were used at Mount Rushmore, South Dakota, which he began in 1927. Borglum spent the rest of his life on that project. He died in Chicago on March 6, 1941 and Mt. Rushmore was completed on October 31, 1941 by his son Lincoln.

Borglum made many other sculptures of Abraham Lincoln, including works displayed at Lincoln's tomb in Springfield, IL.

What was happening in Idaho when Lincoln was president?

IDAHO

April 1860 Mormon settlers founded Franklin, first permanent settlement in what became Idaho. At that time it was Washington Territory. The settlers thought they were in Utah.

Spring 1860 Elias D. Pierce discovered gold on a tributary of the Clearwater River. It was part of the Nez Perce Reservation. It was illegal for Pierce to be there.

March 4, 1861

April 1861 The Nez Perce Reservation was substantially reduced in size by a new treaty. That opened land to gold diggers.

Spring 1861 Miners rushed to the diggings in what would become Idaho Territory. Lewiston was founded, named after explorer Meriwether Lewis. Soon Pierce and Elk City flourished as temporary tent cities.

1862 Gold was discovered in the Boise Basin and the Salmon River country. Florence (north of McCall) flourished with 8000 people.

LINCOLN

Abraham Lincoln and his supporters were working for his nomination as the Republican Party Presidential candidate.

The Republican Convention began on May 16th in Chicago. Lincoln stayed home in Springfield. Politicians did not assert themselves much in public at that time.

Lincoln took the oath of office as President of the United States.

Fort Sumter, S.C. was fired upon by Confederates, starting the Civil War.

Lincoln tried to raise a Federal Army. As President, he could obtain only 90 day enlistments. State governors had to raise troops for longer enlistment periods, and provide them uniforms and supplies.

William Wallace Lincoln (Willie), the third son of the President, died of bilious fever at age 11, on Feb. 20. Mary Todd Lincoln believed God was punishing her.

IDAHO

1862 The Mullen Road was completed by the military, linking Fort Benton (now Montana) with Walla Walla, Washington. It took 4 years to build. The most difficult work was in Idaho. There is a "Mullen Tree" near Coeur d'Alene inscribed " July 4, 1861."

1862 A freight and stage coach road was developed running from Salt Lake City to the mining camps of Grasshopper Creek (now Bannock, Montana). The Snake River (now eastern Idaho) was difficult to cross. Travel was risky.

1862 There were many anti-war men ("Copperheads") and Southern sympathizers in the mining camps. In Florence, when a territorial judge tried to hold court, the grand jury promptly indicted Pres. Lincoln, the cabinet, several army officers, and the judge himself, for treason. The Judge dismissed court and quickly left town.

January 1863 Bear River Indian massacre (Shoshone tribe) near the present town of Preston. Hundreds of Indians and 20 soldiers died of battle wounds and cold.

March 4, 1863 The new territory of Idaho was established, containing all the present state of Idaho, Montana, and most of Wyoming.

LINCOLN

Many draft dodgers and political dissidents went west to the gold fields to avoid military service. Army deserters joined them.

Lincoln was frustrated with General McClellan who demanded more men and guns but refused to engage his men in battle.

The Homestead Act and the Morrill Land Grant Act were passed by Congress, opening up the west to settlement by farmers and families. Land grant colleges and other schools were to be established in the western territories.

Lincoln used his control over territorial appointments to maintain loyal governments in the West. He was not always successful. Many excuses were used by the newly appointed officials to stay in the East and delay the rigorous journey to the frontier. A few never made the trip, and resigned their commissions rather than leave the luxuries of life in civilization.

There was action in Congress to divide Washington Territory. The coastal settlers wanted no association or connection with the coarse rowdy minors of the interior.

Lincoln signed the Territorial Organic Act creating Idaho as an independent territory.

IDAHO

1863 A ferry was built on the Snake River near the present location of Idaho Falls. Tolls were charged for horses, wagons, cattle, and pedestrians who used it.

July 1863 Months after his appointment, Gov. William H. Wallace finally reached Lewiston, which he had selected to be the territorial capital.

1863 There were no laws or law books for lawyers and judges.

January 1864 A "Vigilante Committee" was organized in Virginia City (then Idaho Territory, now Montana) and hung Sheriff Henry Plummer and his gang, on gallows he had built for someone else.

1864 In May, Montana Territory was established and the size of Idaho Territory was reduced substantially.

1864 Legislation passed to move the capital to Boise. Due to hostility in Lewiston, Gov. Lyon sneaked out of town on foot, never to return. Townspeople locked up territorial records in the jail.

LINCOLN

The President appointed William Wallace (remember son Willie!!) to be the first Territorial Governor. Wallace delayed his departure as long as possible, leaving the fledgling territory leaderless.

The Battle of Gettysburg (PA) was fought. Pres. Lincoln was furious because Gen. Meade allowed Lee's Army to leisurely cross the Potomac River and escape. Vicksburg, Mississippi surrendered to Pemberton and Grant, after a long seige.

Gov. Wallace resigned and returned east to be the Territorial Delegate to Congress. He was governor only 4 months. Local people claimed election fraud, but Wallace was back at Congress trying for appropriations for surveys, telegraphs and post roads.

Pres. Lincoln appointed Caleb Lyon, a very vain man, to be the 2nd governor of Idaho. Lyon delayed going west as long as possible and arrived in August.

Lincoln was the unanimous candidate for President for the National Union Convention - essentially Republicans and pro-war Democrats. He was re-elected President, defeating former Gen. George B. McClellan. Soldiers were allowed to go home and vote.

IDAHO

Winter 1864-5 Taylor's bridge was built across the Snake River at present Idaho Falls. Work was done in the winter when the river was frozen thick enough to walk on.

The first public school in Idaho was held at Florence.

March 1865 Eight months after his appointment, Clinton DeWitt Smith arrived in Idaho as the territorial secretary. He assumed duties running the government since Gov. Lyon had fled.

April 1865 Smith obtained a military escort and went to Lewiston to rescue incarcerated territorial documents. He also managed to pay some officials their salaries. It was the first time territorial debts had been paid.

April 14, 1865 Clinton DeWitt Smith arrived in Boise with the territorial records and received a hero's welcome. The cheers were brief. Smith did not provide real leadership, and with an absent governor the territory drifted towards chaos.

March 25, 1867 (Some reports say 1871) Gutzon Borglum was born at St. Charles, Idaho Territory, near Bear Lake. He became the foremost Lincoln sculptor. His works include Mount Rushmore and the Lincoln Tomb at Springfield. He died in Chicago in 1941. His son Lincoln finished work on Mt. Rushmore.

LINCOLN

The Civil War dragged on. Sherman marched across Georgia. Petersburg, VA was under seige by Grant, with Lee's army slowly running out of supplies.

Lincoln traveled to army headquarters at City Point, VA, to confer with Gen. Grant and Sherman about (in addition to other things) terms of surrender.

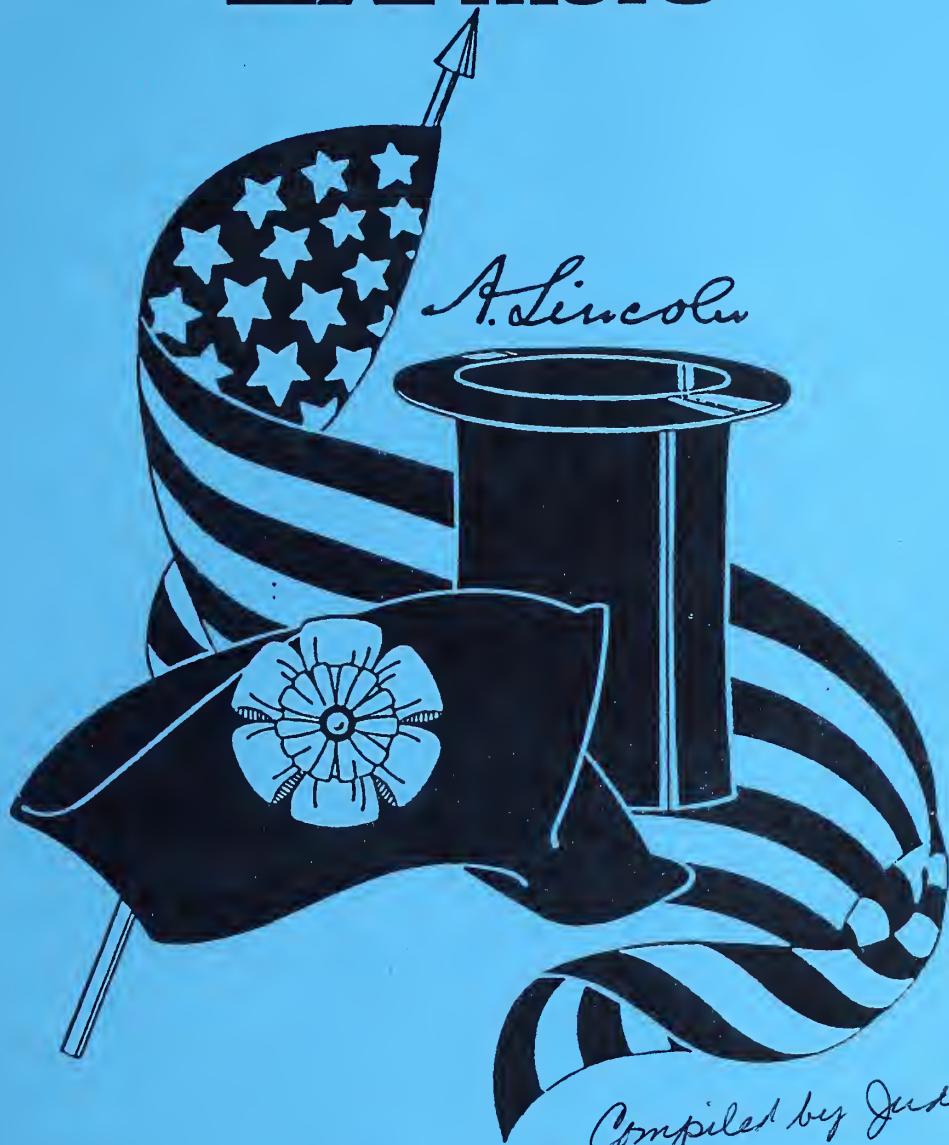
Lincoln was inaugurated President for his second term.

On April 2, Petersburg, VA. surrendered to Grant. Most of Lee's troops escaped. Soon Richmond was captured. Lincoln went there to the house and office of Jefferson Davis, the Confederate President. Lincoln was melancholy. Lee surrendered April 12th.

Abraham Lincoln was shot. He died at 7:22 a.m. the following day. William Wallace, the first Territorial Governor was a pallbearer at his funeral.



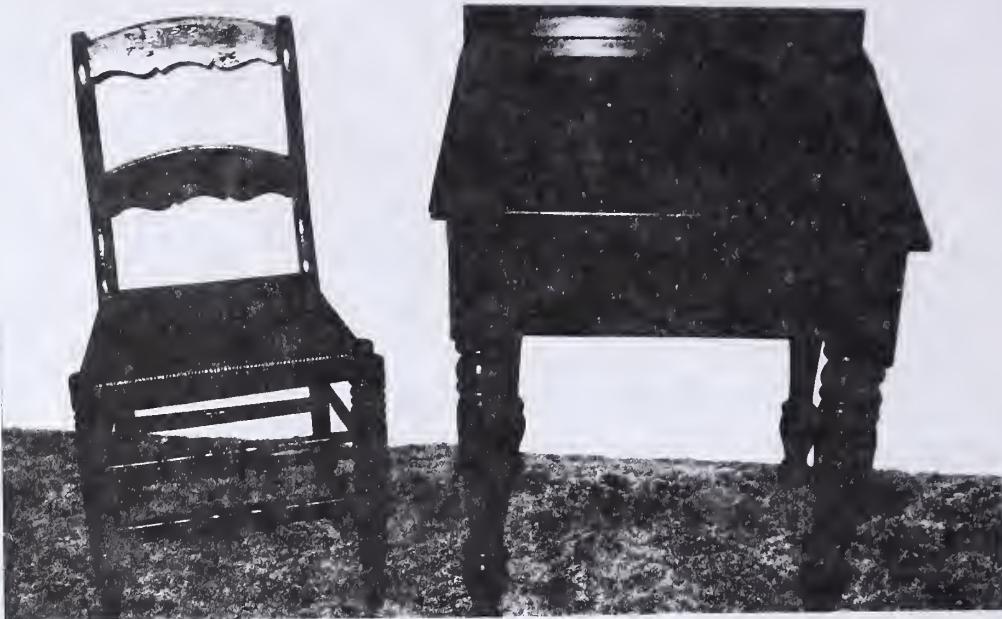
Abraham Lincoln Exhibit



Compiled by Judge Linda Cook

Bonneville Museum
Idaho Falls, Idaho

February 1993



THE LINCOLN EXHIBIT

As the Lincolns were preparing to move to Washington D.C. in February 1861, they gave away or sold nearly all their household belongings. This desk and chair were given to John Kuecher, a friend. President-elect Lincoln helped Kuecher haul the furniture to his home in a wheelbarrow. They stayed in the Kuecher family for many years.

Since 1943, they have been in a private collection and have been displayed only once, in 1990, at the Bonneville County Museum. The owners have allowed the Museum to display them again, along with two letters written by Pres. Lincoln, a handbill for the play at Ford's Theater where Lincoln was shot, and other memorabilia. One of the letters, dated January 30, 1865, directs Major Eckart to go to Richmond, Virginia, and talk with "Messrs. Stephens, Campbell and Hunter" about terms of peace. Alexander H. Stephens was Vice President of the Confederacy and John A. Campbell was a judge. By not referring to them by title, President Lincoln obviously was not acknowledging the existence of the Confederate States of America.

Executive Mansion
Washington, Jan. 30. 1865

Major J. J. Eckert
Sir

You will proceed with the documents placed in your hands; and, on reaching Gen. Ord, will deliver him the letter addressed to him by the Secretary of War; then, by Gen. Ord's assistance, procure an interview with Messrs. Stephens, Hunter and Campbell, or any of them, deliver to him, or them, the paper on which your own letter is written, note on the copy which you retain the time of delivery, and to whom delivered, receive their answer in writing, waiting a reasonable time for it, and which, if it contain their decision to come, though, without further condition, will be your warrant to ask Gen. Ord to pass them though as directed in the letter of the Secretary of War to him. If by their answer they decline to come, or propose other terms, do not have them passed though. And this being your whole duty return and report to me.

Yours truly
A. Lincoln

ABRAHAM LINCOLN CHRONOLOGY

1809

February 12. Abraham Lincoln was born near Hodgenville, Kentucky. He was the second child of Thomas and Nancy Hanks Lincoln.

1811

Spring. The Lincolns moved 10 miles east to a more fertile, 228 acre farm on Knob Creek.

1812

Another child, Thomas, was born. He died in infancy.

1815

Autumn. For a few weeks, Abraham and his sister Sarah, attended a "blab school." There were no books. Lessons were recited.

1816

December. The Lincoln family established a new home in Indiana. It was hoped that land titles would be secure, unlike Kentucky. They lived briefly in a "half-faced" cabin. Being large for his age, Abraham was provided an ax to clear land to farm.

1818

October 5. Nancy Hanks Lincoln, mother of Sarah and Abraham, died of "milk sickness," contracted from milk from cows that grazed on poisonous white snakeroot. She was 34. Abraham was 9.

1819

December. Thomas Lincoln went to Kentucky to find another wife.

He married a widow, Sarah Bush Johnston, with three children. Abraham later affectionately referred to her as "my angel mother."

1828

January 20. Sarah Lincoln Grigsby died in childbirth. Her brother Abraham, was devastated. **Spring.** Abraham and a friend constructed a crude flatboat, loaded it with farm produce, and floated it to New Orleans. When he returned, his \$24 pay was turned over to his father.

1830

March 1. Thomas Lincoln's family moved to the bank of the Sangamon River, near Decatur, Illinois. They cleared land for farming.

1831

After this awful "Winter of the Deep Snow," the Lincoln family moved to Coles County, Illinois. Young Abraham stayed behind. He and a cousin built a flatboat.

April-July. Lincoln piloted the boat to New Orleans, sold it and cargo, and returned to Illinois.

September. Lincoln began clerking at Denton Offutt's store at New Salem. He loved talking politics and telling stories.

Winter. He worked to improve his education, principally by himself. He also attended the debating society and read Shakespeare and Robert Burns.

1832

April. He joined the volunteer regiment to fight the Black Hawk War. He was elected captain.

July 10. His enlistment expired. He was mustered out by Lt. Robert Anderson (who would be in command at Fort Sumter in 1861.)

August 6. Lincoln was defeated in the election for the legislature.

1833

January. Lincoln and William Berry purchased a store in New Salem for \$750. Berry drank lots.

May 7. Lincoln was appointed post master at New Salem, by Pres. Andrew Jackson. He served until May 1836, when postal service was discontinued there.

1834

Lincoln helped survey Sangamon County, which took three years.

August 4. Lincoln was elected to the House of Representatives in the Illinois legislature.

December 1. He took his legislative seat at Vandalia, then the Illinois capital.

1835

January 10. Lincoln's business partner, William Berry died, leaving Lincoln a \$1,100 debt. It took Lincoln years to repay.

August. Ann Rutledge, legendary sweetheart of Lincoln, died. This romantic legend is not true.

December. Lincoln attended the legislative session in Vandalia.

1836

March. Lincoln took the first of three steps toward obtaining a license to practice law. His name was entered at the circuit court.

August 1. He was re-elected to the Illinois legislature.

September 9. The second step, he was given a license to practice law in all Illinois courts.

December. Lincoln had a romance

with Mary Owens of New Salem.

1837

Lincoln helped get the capital moved to Springfield.

March 1. The third, final step to becoming a lawyer, his name was entered on the roll of attorneys.

April. Lincoln moved to Springfield and became the law partner of John T. Stuart. He roomed with Joshua Speed above a store.

1838

August. Lincoln was elected to the legislature a third time.

1839

Lincoln was active in politics. He was named a presidential elector by the Whig party. (Also in 1844, 1852 and 1856.)

December 9. The Illinois legislature, with Lincoln as a member, met in Springfield, the new capital, for the first time.

1840

Lincoln was active in politics, campaigning in many Illinois communities for Whig candidates.

June 18. Lincoln argued his first case in the Illinois Supreme Court.

Autumn. Lincoln courted Mary Todd, a gentle lady from Kentucky. She was well educated, wealthy, and read French.

1841

January 1. Lincoln's engagement to Mary Todd was broken. Depressed, he was absent from the legislature for several days.

April 14. Stuart and Lincoln dissolved their law partnership. Lincoln became the partner of Stephen T. Logan.

1842

March 1. Lincoln paid \$2 for his certificate to practice law in the U. S. District Court.

September 2. Challenged to a duel, Lincoln accepted, naming for weapons, the largest size of cavalry broadswords. This was absurd. They reconciled.

November 4. Lincoln and Mary Todd were married. Their first home was in the Globe Tavern.

1843

August 1. Robert Todd Lincoln was born at the Globe Tavern.

1844

January 16. Lincoln purchased a home in Springfield for \$1,200. They moved in May 1. This was the only home they owned.

December. Lincoln and Herndon established a law practice.

1845

March 10. A second child was born, named Edward Baker.

August 3. Lincoln was elected to the U. S. Congress.

1846

December. Lincoln took his seat in Congress. He and his family lived at the Willard Hotel. He was opposed to the Mexican War.

1848

Lincoln attended the Whig convention and also had a speaking tour in New England.

1849

January 10. Lincoln read a resolution to Congress to abolish slavery in Washington D.C.

May 22. A patent was granted to Lincoln for "buoyant chambers" for steamboats in shallows.

September 27. Lincoln declined appointment to be the governor of Oregon Territory.

1850

February 1. Son Edward died. December 21. William Wallace Lincoln, was born. (William Wallace was the first governor of Idaho Territory in 1863.)

1851

January 17. Lincoln's father, Thomas Lincoln, died at age 78.

1852

Lincoln was involved in politics, giving many speeches.

1853

April 4. The fourth son, Thomas (Tad) was born. He was sickly.

1854

Elected to a fourth term in the legislature, Lincoln resigned to run for the U. S. Senate.

1855

Although he wanted the U. S. Senate seat, Lincoln helped Lyman Trumbull get elected.

1856

Spring. At a cost of \$1,300, contractors enlarged Lincoln's home from a story and a half to two full stories. Now Lincoln could stand up in his bedroom.

June 19. At the first Republican National Convention, Lincoln received 110 votes for V. Pres. Summer & Fall. Lincoln campaigned

for Republican candidates, including John Fremont, for president. December 1. Because the judge was absent, Lincoln presided over the Sangamon County Circuit Court. During a five-year period he acted as judge several times in four different counties.

1857

June 18. Lincoln received a fee of \$5000 for a suit against the Illinois Central Railroad.

1858

June 16. The Republicans unanimously resolved "that Abraham Lincoln is the first and only choice of the Republicans of Illinois for U.S. Senate." In the evening he delivered the "House Divided" speech.

August 21 - October 15. Seven speeches were given in different communities as the "Lincoln-Douglas debates."

November. Lincoln got the popular vote, but Douglas won the Senate seat because of gerrymandered legislative districts.

1859

Lincoln campaigns in Ohio, Wisconsin, and Kansas, for Republican candidates. He was adamantly against the expansion of slavery into the Territories. Politicians began to speak of Lincoln as the presidential candidate in 1860.

December 20. At the request of Jesse Fell, Lincoln wrote an autobiography, stating "There is not much of it, for the reason, I suppose, that there is not much of me. If anything be made out of it, I wish it to be modest."

December. To Senator Lyman Turnbull, Lincoln wrote that he would rather be senator than president.

1860

February 28. Lincoln began a two week speaking tour of New England en route to visit son Robert, who attended Phillips Exeter Academy. May 18. Lincoln, who remained in Springfield, was nominated for president at the Republican convention in Chicago. Lincoln supporters printed bogus tickets and packed the convention center.

July. Robert Lincoln enrolled at Harvard. After graduation in 1864, he became a captain on Gen. Ulysses Grant's staff.

October 19. Lincoln received a suggestion from 11-year old Grace Bedell that he grow a beard since "all the ladies like whiskers and would tease their husbands to vote for you."

November 6. Lincoln became the first Republican president. defeating Stephen Douglas, John Breckinridge, and John Bell.

December 20. "The Union is Dissolved" with the secession of South Carolina.

1861

January 29. "Bleeding" Kansas became the 34th State.

January 31. Lincoln made farewell visit to his aged stepmother, Sarah, in Coles County, Illinois. She outlived him.

February 4. Confederate States of America established, with South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Louisiana. Jefferson Davis President. Alexander Stephens, V. President.

February 11. Lincolns left Springfield for Washington D.C.

February 23. After many speeches and public appearances, Lincoln arrived secretly in Washington.

March 4. Lincoln was inaugurated the sixteenth president.

April 12. Rebels attacked Fort Sumter, in South Carolina. War!

April 15. Lincoln called for 75 thousand militia volunteers.
Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Arkansas seceded.
April 19. By proclamation, Lincoln blockaded southern ports.
April 27. Lincoln suspended writ of habeas corpus in Maryland.
May 3. Lincoln requested the military be increased by 40,714.
June 3. Stephen A. Douglas died in Chicago at age forty-eight.
July 21. The Union army was defeated at Battle of Bull Run.
July 27. George McClellan placed in command of all eastern troops.
November 1. Gen. Winfield Scott resigned. Gen. McClellan designated to command the whole army.

1862

Gen. McClellan is not aggressive.
January 13. Edwin M. Stanton was appointed Secretary of War.
January 31. Lincoln issued Special War Order No. 1 directing the army to move on or before February 22nd. McClellan refused.
February 6, 16. Confederates at Fort Henry and Fort Donelson surrendered to Union forces under Gen. Grant. Important victories.
February 20. William Wallace Lincoln (Willie) died at age 12.
March 9. Ironclads CSS Merrimack and the USS Monitor, clashed near Hampton Roads, VA. The Merrimack was forced to withdraw. Wooden ships were instantly obsolete.
May 15. Lincoln signed act establishing the Dept. of Agriculture.
May 20. Lincoln signed Homestead Act, granting land to settlers.
June 1. Gen. Robert E. Lee became commander of Confederate Army of Northern Virginia.
July 1. Lincoln asked for 300,000 military volunteers and approved a 3% tax on incomes above \$600.
July 2. Lincoln approved Morrill Land Grant College Act, donating public land for colleges.

July 11. Gen. Henry Halleck was named general in chief of army.
July 17. Congress authorized conscription of Negroes for military. August 30. Union forces under Gen. Pope were defeated at Bull Run. Lincoln felt Gen. McClellan "wanted Pope defeated."
September 17. Gen. Robert E. Lee's northern invasion was stopped at Antietam (Sharpsburg, MD). It was the bloodiest single day of the war. McClellan refused to pursue as Gen. Lee withdrew.
September 22. The Emancipation Proclamation was issued, to free slaves on January 1, 1863.
November 5. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside replaced McClellan as commander of Army of the Potomac.
December 12. Gen. Burnside was defeated at Fredricksburg, VA.
December 31. Lincoln reluctantly approved the admission of West Virginia into the Union, as the 35th State.

1863

January 1. The final Emancipation Proclamation issued, freeing all slaves in states "in rebellion."
March 3. IDAHO TERRITORY was created. It included all of present day Montana and Wyoming.
May 2-4. Gen. Hooker's Union army was defeated at Chancellorsville.
July 1-3. Confederate invasion of Pennsylvania under Gen. Lee was stopped. Lincoln was furious because Gen. Mead did not pursue Lee's slowly retreating army.
July 4. Gen. Grant's long siege of Vicksburg, Mississippi, ended. Gen. Pemberton surrendered his 29,000 Confederate troops.
November 19. Gettysburg Address was delivered to a crowd of 15000 at the dedication of a military cemetery. Lincoln considered the speech a "flat failure."
November 21. Lincoln was ill with a mild case of smallpox.

November 26. The first national observance of Thanksgiving, by proclamation of Pres. Lincoln.

1864

March 10. Grant was appointed commander-in-chief of the armies, with rank of lieutenant general.
March 14. Lincoln issued call for 200,000 men for military service.
June 8. Lincoln was nominated for re-election, with Andrew Johnson as vice president.

July 11. As he visited Fort Stevens on the outskirts of Washington, Confederates were attacking it. Being so tall, Lincoln was a target.

July 18. Lincoln called for half a million volunteers.

September 1. Gen. Sherman's Union forces occupy Atlanta. Victory helped Lincoln's re-election.

October 21. Gen. Phil Sheridan successfully concluded the Shenandoah Valley campaign.

October 31. Nevada was admitted into the Union as 36th State.

November 8. Lincoln was re-elected president, easily defeating former Gen. George B. McClellan.

December 19. Lincoln called for 300,000 military volunteers.

December 22. The capture of Atlanta was General Sherman's "Christmas gift."

1865

There was public clamor to end the war. In response, Lincoln tried to negotiate peace.

January 30. Lincoln sent Major Eckart to talk about terms of peace with Alexander Stephens, Confederate Vice President.

February 1. Lincoln approved 13th Amendment, abolishing slavery.

February 3. Lincoln conducted a peace conference with Alexander Stephens, John Campbell and R. M. T. Hunter at Hampton Roads, VA.

The attempt to negotiate peace was not successful. The South determined to fight to defeat.

March 4. Lincoln delivering his Second Inaugural Address, stated "with malice toward none; with charity for all." John Wilkes Booth was in the crowd nearby.

April 2. Richmond, VA. was evacuated as Union forces approached. The city was burned by retreating Confederates.

April 4. A somber Lincoln went to smoldering Richmond. He told Union General Weitzel to "let 'em up easy, let 'em up easy."

April 9. Gen. Lee surrendered to Gen. Grant at Appomattox, VA.

April 10. Appearing briefly for a crowd, Lincoln requested that the band play "Dixie."

April 11. He discussed restoring the Union without revenge.

April 14. Lincoln was shot by actor John Wilkes Booth in Ford's Theater. Booth fled south.

April 15. Abraham Lincoln died at 7:22 a.m. in Wm. Peterson's home. Mrs. Lincoln sobbed hysterically.

April 19. Funeral services were held in the White House. Later, the body was taken by train the same winding route that Lincoln had taken to Washington. Willie was transported with him.

May 3. Train reached Springfield.

May 4. Lincoln was buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery, in Springfield. He left an estate of \$110,296.80.

July 14, 1870. Congress granted Mrs. Lincoln a \$3,000 pension.

July 15, 1871. "Tad" Lincoln died of "dropsy of the chest."

November 7, 1876. Three men attempted to steal Lincoln's body, for ransom. They failed.

January 16, 1882. Mrs. Lincoln's pension was increased to \$5,000.

July 16, 1882. Mary Todd Lincoln died in Springfield in the same home where she was married. She was buried with husband and sons.





Bonneville
County Museum

LINCOLN EXHIBIT

Feb. 8 - Mar. 20
1993

Feb 10 1968

"Long Abraham Lincoln a little longer."

Published in Harper's Weekly, Nov. 26, 1864.

It represented Lincoln's reelection as President.



*LINCOLN CURRENCY AND
FIREARMS DISPLAY*



PRESIDENT ABRAHAM LINCOLN

President Lincoln was noted for three giant steps in the making of American History:

1. As a leader in establishing currency. From 1861, currency was issued by the United States Treasury so that the people did not have to fear its value. Prior to that, local banks printed their own money. When the bank failed, the money was worthless.
2. With his backwoods experience and updated knowledge of firearms, he pursued the best possible weapons for the Union Army.
3. In addition to having the Treasury issue money with a stable value and providing weapons for an army, Pres. Lincoln used his power as president to preserve the Union and free the slaves. (But that is another story.)

CURRENCY AND COIN

The American Colonies issued Colonial currency that became worthless. The Continental Congress issued Continental currency and it too became worthless. These two issues of currency brought about the expression "not worth a continental."

The first coins struck in the United States were at the Philadelphia Mint in 1793, when copper cents and half cents were issued. From then until 1861, the Government did not issue paper money as we now know it. The Government did

issue Treasury Notes bearing interest. They were NOT circulated, but were actually promissory notes. Congress did allow state banks to issue currency from 1793 to 1861. Through customer loan defaults, poor local economy, and poor

management, the state banks closed and the currency became worthless. The term "wildcat" was applied to these state banks and their currency. These same state bank notes are known as "Broken Bank Notes" today. Their only value is what the collectors will pay for them.

Since 1861, the U. S. Treasury has printed all currency. It also distributed the currency until 1913, when Congress created the Federal Reserve Bank. Since then currency was issued as needed by the new Federal Reserve System throughout its twelve districts. The "Fed" System was updated in 1934 by Congress and has worked well since.

Starting in the 1860's only the Treasury issued currency. Those first notes were "Demand Notes," followed by "Legal Tender Notes" and backed by the public's faith in the "strength and integrity of the U. S. Government."

Although Gold and Silver Certificates have been issued in the past to cover a small amount of our currency, all of our money now is backed by that same first issue statement. Also, the gold in Fort Knox as well as the U. S. silver supply, backs our currency along with choice obligations to the U. S. Treasury.

(Source: Paper Money of the United States, by Robert Friedberg.)

THE SPENCER RIFLE

President Lincoln listened to such men as Capt. A. B. Dyer, Chief of Army Ordnance, Gideon Welles, Secretary of the Navy, Commander John A. Dahlgren, U.S. Navy, and Capt. Andrew A. Harwood, Chief of Naval Ordnance. These men all spoke out for the purchase of the repeating Spencer rifle which would give the Union Army and Navy men a distinct advantage in battle and save many lives.

Brig. Gen. James W. Ripley, Chief of Army Ordnance, did not like change. He rejected the Spencer as an odd-looking gun and termed it a "new fangled jimcrack." He favored the muzzle loaders for the Union troops. (He thought that the men would waste ammunition. It was better to waste men, apparently.)

Despite Gen. Ripley's wishes, Christopher Spencer sought the President's help and on December 26, 1861, Mr. Lincoln instructed Ripley to order 10,000 Spencer rifles. Ripley stalled. Some Union men paid the \$35 cost of the rifle themselves, which was nearly three months pay. These fine rifles surely saved many thousands of Union lives. This breakthrough from muzzle loaders to repeating rifles also opened the door for the rapid advance in rifle accuracy, distance and center fire bullets. These new weapons greatly helped the Union win the Civil War, and ultimately these guns **WON THE WEST!**

(Source: Gun Digest Treasury, edited by John T. Amber.)

Bonneville Co. Museum
Idaho Falls, Idaho

Feb. 8 - Mar. 20, 1993



Fig. 4—Spencer sporter, caliber 50 (using 56-52 or 50-70 cartridge), with round barrel and military sights. Made without the Stabler cutoff, perhaps made from a military rifle.
Winchester Museum photo.

1993

Idaho falls



THE LINCOLN EXHIBIT

Bonneville County Museum

Idaho Falls, Idaho

February 8 - March 20, 1993

The Lincoln desk, chair, letters, presidential china, Ford's Theater handbill, a paper weight, and other memorabilia belong to a private collection. The only other public display of these items for more than fifty years, was in 1990, also at the Bonneville County Museum. No other public exhibits are anticipated.

Guns and currency from the Civil War period, when Abraham Lincoln was president, are also on display. These items are from another private collection.

We appreciate the generosity of the owners of these collections, who have made this exhibit possible.

THE DESK AND CHAIR

As President-elect and Mrs. Lincoln were preparing to move to Washington D.C. in February, 1861, they gave away or sold nearly all of their household possessions. Most of the furniture was later destroyed in the Chicago fire.

This desk and chair were given to John Kuecher, a neighbor. Mr. Lincoln helped haul them to the Kuecher home in a wheelbarrow. After the assassination, the desk and chair were displayed at Dillard's Drug Store in Springfield, Illinois, each year on February 12th, Lincoln's birthday. These items remained in the Kuecher family until 1943, when they were obtained by the family who presently owns them.

The desk was in Lincoln's law office and later at his Springfield home. The desk drawer locks with a skeleton key. The desk top is leather; the nails are square.

Imagine tall, lanky Abraham Lincoln sitting at this desk. Perhaps he used it while he was in the Illinois legislature. Did he use it to write his notes for the Lincoln - Douglas Debates? Pause a moment, and ponder.



THE FLAG

At the time Abraham Lincoln was elected president, there were thirty-three states. The flag on the Lincoln desk is similar to that flown at Fort Sumter when the Civil War began April 12, 1861. As states seceded from the Union, many people wanted the star of that state removed from the flag. Pres. Lincoln refused. He believed that the Union could never been dissolved. The flag was not altered by removing the stars for "states in rebellion."

Kansas became a state in 1861, West Virginia in 1862, and Nevada in 1864. As they became states, additional stars were added to the flag, but none were removed. Idaho and Montana became territories while Lincoln was president.





MADAM PRESIDENT

Mary Todd Lincoln was born in 1818. Her mother died when she was young. She was preceded in death by her husband and three of their four children.

Because of her Kentucky origin and Confederate relatives, many considered Mary to be disloyal to the Union. Mary's brothers and brothers-in-law were Confederate Generals. Pres. Lincoln once appeared before a Senate committee to vouch for his wife's loyalty.

When Lincolns moved into the White House, it was in need of refurbishing. Congress appropriated \$20,000 for the project. Indoor plumbing was installed. Mary went shopping, and quickly over spent the budget by more than \$7,000. The presidential china alone, cost \$3,195. (Lincolns paid \$1,200 for their Springfield home.) One piece of the china is included in this exhibit.

THE LINCOLN LETTERS

In December of 1864, Pres. Lincoln requested that 300,000 more men volunteer for combat. Tens of thousands of soldiers were dying from contagious diseases and battle wounds. More men were needed immediately to replace them.

There was such a public clamor to end the war, that on January 30, 1865, Pres. Lincoln wrote a letter to Major T. T. Eckart, directing him to go to Richmond and talk with "Messrs. Stephens, Hunter, and Campbell" about negotiating peace. Alexander Stephens was the vice president of the Confederacy. Hunter had been a U. S. Supreme Court Justice. Major Eckart did as directed.

Pres. Lincoln himself went to Virginia on February 3rd to speak with these men in an attempt to negotiate an end to the war and unite the country. He was not successful. The South was determined to fight to defeat.

On February 7, Lincoln wrote Major Eckart a hasty note, on Eckart's own paper, requesting him to provide certain documents to the President, that related to the peace mission. These two letters are included in the Bonneville County Museum's **Lincoln Exhibit**.

Wednesday, February 24, 1993

POST REGISTER

B

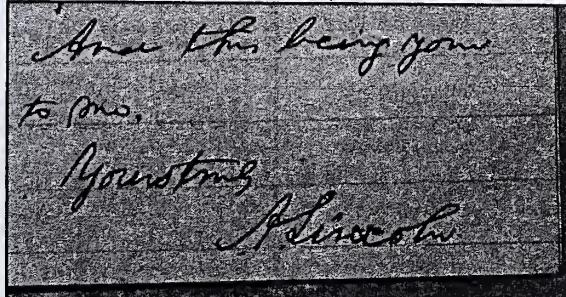
SECTION



Lincoln papers

Linden Bateman, left, Bonneville High School history teacher discusses the documents in the museum case with student Angi Madsen. Right, is an original Lincoln document.

Robert Bower/Post Register



Museum offers close look at Abe Lincoln

Ron Marr
Post Register

Perhaps one of the reasons why many students cringe and shudder at the thought of history class lies more with presentation than subject matter. Many such courses walk the straight and narrow of dry statistical data, with instructors often forgetting that history is more akin to an ongoing process than a dead language.

At its best, the presentation of history involves a bit of the "up close and personal" approach — a technique allowing characters and events which shaped the present (and will continue to mold the future) to come to life. History unveiled in such a way is enjoyable for those of all ages, not just students.

Such a display is currently featured at the Bonneville County Museum, located at the corner of Eastern and Elm Streets. The Abraham Lincoln Exhibit, which opened February 8 and will run through March 20, offers numerous personal effects of "The Great Emancipator" and a collection of period firearms and currency dating back to the Civil War.

The exhibit's centerpiece is a desk and chair once owned by Lincoln. It is believed that these two pieces were originally used during his tenure in the Illinois State Legislature, and also sat in the corner of the Lincoln and Herndon law offices in Springfield.

When the President-elect was preparing to

Details

Personal effects concerning the life, times and family of Abraham Lincoln are on display at the Bonneville County Museum 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday, and 1 to 5 p.m. Saturdays. Admission is \$1 for adults and 25 cents for children.

See LINCOLN, Page B4

LINCOLN

From Page B1

leave for Washington in 1861, he gave the desk to a close friend, John Kuecher, and helped him haul the furniture home in a wheelbarrow. The desk and chair remained with the Kuecher family until 1943, when they were purchased for the private collection of actor Pat O'Brien

en (of "Knut Rockne" fame) and his wife Eloise.

The O'Briens, especially Eloise, were collectors of Lincoln memorabilia. Upon their deaths, Lincoln's effects came to Idaho Falls, home of the O'Brien heirs. The desk was displayed once before at the museum in 1990, but now the majority of the Lincoln pieces will also be shown, courtesy of the O'Brien estate. As the family has moved from Idaho

Falls, this may well be their final public appearance in this area.

Found in the collection are personal letters from the 16th president, an authentic handbill from Ford's Theater (Washington D.C. site of Lincoln's assassination) advertising the play "Our American Cousin," personally signed letters, guns, currency, and a piece of Mary Todd Lincoln's specially chosen White House China. Purchased in

the early 1860's, the 190-piece china set cost \$3,195, a lofty sum in those days, especially considering the Lincoln home in Springfield was purchased for \$1,200.

One of the most hated and beloved men of his time, Lincoln served as President during the time that Idaho became a territory. William Wallace, a close friend of the President and namesake of one of his sons, served as the untamed region's first territorial governor.

What you never knew about Lincoln could amaze you

Courtesy Bonneville County Museum

- In March, 1831, 22-year-old Abraham Lincoln was hired by Denton Offutt "for getting the timber out of trees and building a flatboat." For this job, Lincoln was to receive a monthly payment of \$12, or about 40 cents a day.

As it turned out, Lincoln worked for about two months building the raft and two months more at a rate of \$10 for taking the flatboat to New Orleans. For about four months work, Lincoln was paid \$44, an average daily pay of about 33 cents.

- Lincoln purchased his first pair of spectacles at age 47 in Bloomington, Ill., for 37 1/2 cents. His comment, "I had got to be 47 years old and kind of needed them."

- Lincoln's right foot was 12 1/4

inches long. His left foot was 12 inches long. Partially due to an extreme amount of hand shaking, his right hand was larger than his left.

- During the Civil War, the draft laws allowed a conscripted man to get out of military service by finding a substitute or paying for one at \$300. Although exempted from the draft by virtue of his office, Lincoln still desired to be represented by a substitute in the Union Army.

J. Sumerfield Staples enlisted as the President's substitute on Oct. 1, 1864, and served until Sept. 12, 1865, five months after the President was killed.

- On the night of his assassination at Ford's Theater, Lincoln's bodyguard was John Frederick Park. Park abandoned his seat outside Lincoln's box in the theater vestibule in order to gain a better view of

the stage (although some claimed he was in a nearby bar and not present in the theater at the time of the shooting), thus allowing John Wilkes Booth to go unchallenged into the President's box. Lincoln had requested that his friend Major T.T. Eckart accompany him to the theater as a guard, however Secretary of War Stanton informed the President that Eckart had work to do and was thus unavailable.

- Immediately after his assassination, the contents of Lincoln's pockets were taken by the President's oldest son, Robert Todd, and put in storage. In 1976, on his birthday, the contents of Lincoln's pockets were revealed.

The contents included:

Two pairs of spectacles, one with screws missing and held together by string.

Two pads of chamois lens cleaner.

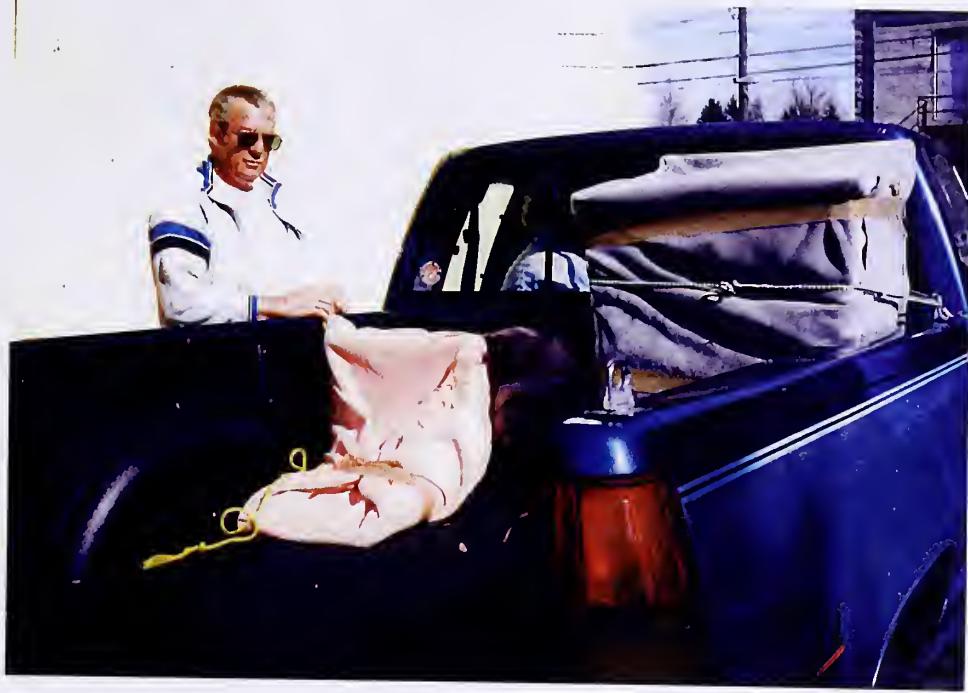
An ivory pocket knife with silver mountings.

A large white Irish linen handkerchief with "A. Lincoln," embroidered in red thread.

A brown leather wallet lined in purple silk. The wallet contained a thin pencil, several newspaper clippings and a Confederate \$5 bill.

- In 1876, there was an unsuccessful attempt to steal Lincoln's corpse and hold it for ransom. In order to prevent such attempts in the future, the body was moved, hidden, and viewed on 17 different occasions. The last time the coffin was opened was on Sept. 26, 1901. After ascertaining that the body remained in its coffin, Lincoln was reburied permanently under two tons of cement.

- The last surviving witness to the assassination of Abraham Lincoln, Daniel Seymour, died in 1956 at the age of 94. He was 5 years old at the time of the shooting, April 14, 1865.



Pat O'Brien, Jr. with the Lincoln desk and chair after they were displayed at the Bonneville County Museum, Idaho Falls, ID, in February and March, 1993. Pat O'Brien Sr. acquired them in 1943 from Bobby Watson, who was the grandson of John Kucher, who obtained them from President Elect Lincoln in February 1863.

Idaho Falls, ID
5/93

file: Idaho file

Show next director +
relay O'Brien story to new
person. Contact family?
They do not realize the
value of L. letters or desk,
etc.

Contact Judge Linda Cook

Judge L. Cook
Magistrate Court
605 N. Capital Avenue
Idaho Falls, ID 83402

oo 00 00

PRESENTED TO PAT AND ELOISE O'FRIEN oo 00 00

Dear Pat and Eloise:

This desk, chair, and paper weight, together with a sofa which is still in possession of my UNCLE, was given to my GRANDFATHER--JOHN KUECHER, by ABRAHAM LINCOLN just before he left SPRINGFIELD to be sworn in as PRESIDENT.

My GRANDAD was among the many who wished him Godspeed when he departed from the old WABASH railway depot on 10th and Monroe Streets, three blocks from where I was born.

My GRANDAD was employed at the STATE CAPITAL, bought the old GOVERNOR'S MANSION, had it moved to 12th and Cook Streets a few blocks from LINCOLN'S home.

They were staunch friends. My GRANDAD campaigned for LINCOLN and was also an HONORARY PALBEARER at his funeral.

The bracelet was given to my GRANDMOTHER by MARY TODD LINCOLN at the same time. We do not know whether or not it is hers or her MOTHER'S hair. The desk, we were told was at one time in the old STATE CAPITAL. It sat in a corner of the LINCOLN & HERNDON law office, then to LINCOLN'S home.

The desk, chair, and sofa were given to my GRANDFATHER -- JOHN KUECHER. LINCOLN helped him cart them home in a wheelbarrow.

The pictures marked, were re-produced in LIFE MAGAZINE. My GRANDMOTHER picked out her husband (JOHN) from the copies of the originals which we found in her effects after her death, and I marked these from LIFE MAGAZINE. The boy to his left is one of his 6 sons who we think is CHARLES.

The desk, chair, and paper weight has been exhibited in SPRINGFIELD many many times thru the years on LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY. The first time I remember seeing them was in DILLER'S drug store window when I was a boy. They came down thru the family to my SISTER and MYSELF, my SISTER giving them to me a few years ago.

Pat I know you will appreciate the sentiment and respect it demands and I want YOU and YOURS to have them.

Presented to you this FOURTEENTH DAY OF AUGUST 1943

Respectfully yours

Signed

"Bobby Watson" "Kuecher"

IDAHO'S TERRITORIAL GOVERNORS

1863-1890

Idaho Territory was created March 3, 1863, by an act of the United States Congress. This Organic Act, which also established territorial offices, outlined duties and responsibilities of the territorial governor. The governor, nominated by the president and confirmed by the Senate, would hold office for four years and

reside within said Territory, and shall be commander-in-chief of the militia, and superintendent of Indian affairs thereof. He may grant pardons and respites for offences against the laws of said Territory, and reprieve for offences against the laws of the United States until the decision of the president or the United States can be made known thereon; he shall commission all officers who shall be appointed to office under the laws of the said Territory, and shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed.

Over a period of twenty-seven years the presidents of the United States nominated twenty men to be territorial governors of Idaho. Of these twenty, twelve actually served as territorial governor. Among the twelve were attorneys, miners, businessmen, newspapermen, politicians, a doctor, a writer, and a judge. Most did not complete their full four-year terms and a few served less than a year.

Several people nominated as territorial governor of Idaho never served for one reason or another. Four people were nominated by President Andrew Johnson but only the first—David W. Ballard—was confirmed and took office. The others were recommended by the territory's Democratic congressional delegate, E. D. Holbrook, and the Republican Senate would not confirm them. John Miller Murphy was nominated January 2, 1867. Murphy—one of Idaho's most prominent early leaders—came in 1862 from California to the Boise Basin. Idaho Republican leaders, who had great influence in Congress, complained that Murphy had too much experience cracking safes and stealing funds—charges that were standard political tactics of that time. The next nominee was George Caesar Bates of Illinois, who was appointed March 7, 1867, and was unconfirmed because of President Johnson's conflict with Radical Republican senators. Isaac L. Gibbs, a Mormon who had been United States marshal of Utah, was nominated July 19, 1867. Gibbs won Senate confirmation through a deception, but that action was rescinded a day later and Governor Ballard remained in office. A second effort to appoint Gibbs failed to gain Senate approval six months later, and Ballard managed to complete his term as governor.

Ulysses S. Grant, inaugurated as president on March 4, 1869, did not reappoint Ballard. On February 4, 1870, President Grant appointed Samuel Bard, a Georgia newspaperman. Bard signed his oath of office and then took a leave of absence to remain in Georgia. Then he resigned his Idaho governor's appointment to accept a position as postmaster of Atlanta. Next Grant nominated Gilman Marston of New Hampshire, who discovered the salary was \$2,500 per year instead of \$25,000 and decided not to accept the position. Alexander Hamilton Conner, an Indiana lawyer and Indianapolis postmaster, was nominated June 21, 1870, but declined the honor. On March 15, 1871, Ebenezer Dumont of Indiana was nominated, but he died April 16, 1871, before taking the oath of office.

Four territorial governors were then nominated and confirmed and actually served. On June 8, 1878, President Rutherford B. Hayes nominated John Philo Hoyt on the suspension of Governor Mason Brayman. Hoyt did not wish to get into the political argument over Brayman's Indian policies and became a Washington supreme court justice instead. Brayman served out his term.

The following is a list of the governors who actually held office and the dates they served.

William Henson Wallace—July 10, 1863, to January 31, 1864
Caleb Lyon of Lyonsdale—March 12, 1864, to June 14, 1866
David W. Ballard—June 14, 1866, to July 16, 1870
Thomas Mead Bowen—July 7 to September 5, 1871
Thomas Warren Bennett—December 26, 1871, to March 3, 1875
David P. Thompson—April 6 to July 31, 1875
Mason Brayman—August 1, 1876, to August 4, 1880
John Baldwin Neil—August 4, 1880, to April 24, 1883
John Nicholas Irwin—April 24 to May 15, 1883
William Malcolm Bunn—June 25, 1884, to July 9, 1885
Edward Augustus Stevenson—October 10, 1885, to May 1, 1889
George Laird Shoup—May 1, 1889, to November 3, 1890



ISHS 1303-0

WILLIAM HENSON WALLACE

July 19, 1811—February 7, 1879

Nominated by President Abraham Lincoln

Served July 10, 1863—January 31, 1864

An attorney and native of Ohio, William Wallace served as speaker of the House in the first session of Iowa's territorial legislature in 1838. He was elected territorial delegate to Congress in Idaho's first election. He later returned to his previous home in Steilacoom, Washington Territory, and lived there until his death.



ISHS 73-68

CALEB LYON OF LYONSDALE

December 7, 1822—September 7, 1875
Nominated by President Abraham Lincoln
Served March 12, 1864—June 14, 1866

Caleb Lyon of Lyondale, New York, was trained as a civil engineer and became a writer instead. During his term he embezzled \$46,418.40, the entire Idaho Indian appropriation. He died before the investigation was finished.

Senate backs renaming Capitol auditorium the 'Abraham Lincoln Auditorium' - Eye On Boise - The Spokesman-Review

Posted by Betsy

March 4, 2013 9:39 a.m. • 1 comment

spokesman.com

The Senate this morning voted to approve HCR 5, the resolution to, in honor of the 150th anniversary of the creation of Idaho Territory, name the Capitol auditorium the Abraham Lincoln Auditorium. "Idaho was born out of political conflict, slavery, political disputes concerning Washington's eastern boundary," Senate Majority Leader Bart Davis told the Senate. "President Lincoln hoped that the creation of the Idaho Territory would serve as a further hedge against the spread of slavery and provide its ultimate abolition."

"Idaho's creation and early days were rocky, but a wonderful territory and then state was created," Davis told the Senate. "A beautiful state, great resources, and remarkable people. Idaho's creation was at a time of national struggle for individual liberty, freedom and rights, and its current citizens struggle to continue these treasured values. Abraham Lincoln is a symbol of that. His role is significant in Idaho's name, creation, organization and legacy."

Today is the 150th anniversary of the creation of Idaho Territory; to mark that, the entire Legislature is scheduled to participate in a processional out to the Capitol steps for a noon ceremony that will feature Gov. Butch Otter and more.

The Senate voted unanimously in favor of the resolution. Sen. Steve Vick, R-Dalton Gardens, a former Montana legislator, said, "I do get some ... grief for having a political career in two different states. But I think it's important to note ... the very first governor of the territory of Idaho was also the very first governor of the territory of Montana, once they were divided, so there's a very long history there."

Davis noted that as part of the renaming of the auditorium after Lincoln, former Idaho Lt. Gov. David Leroy and his wife, Nancy, have donated an 1863 portrait of Lincoln, in its original frame, for permanent display there. Said Davis, "It is a generous gift."



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